

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the final Office Action dated December 2, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 2, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The Examiner has withdrawn from consideration claims 24-28, newly added in the Amendment filed September 11, 2003, which are drawn to a method for supplying electricity to a substrate. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that claims 24-28 are directed to subject matter that is substantially similar to that recited in cancelled claims 10-13, which were restricted out of the present application. The Applicants have cancelled claims 24-28 without prejudice to presentation in a divisional application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,807,469, issued September 15, 1998 to *Crafts et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Crafts*") in view of United States Patent No. 5,885,469, issued March 23, 1999 to *Kholodenko et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Kholodenko*"). Although the Examiner admits that the combined references do not suggest the contact rings described by Applicants, the Examiner asserts that the claims encompass a contact ring suggested by the references because the claims do not specify the location of the contacts on the ring. In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 14 and 18 to clarify that the contacts are located on the conductive layer above the annular substrate as described in the specification for Figure 5. Claims 15-16 and 19-20 are cancelled. Claim 17 is amended to depend on claim 14.

There is no suggestion or motivation to combine *Crafts* and *Kholodenko* in a manner that would teach, show or suggest all of the limitations of amended claims 14 or 18 as recognized by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants submit that claim 18 prior to

amendment inherently required the contacts to be positioned above the insulative layer. Thus claim 18 is considered to be patentable without entry of this amendment and supports entry of the amendments to clarify the claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered and that rejection of claims 14 and 17-18 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the method or apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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